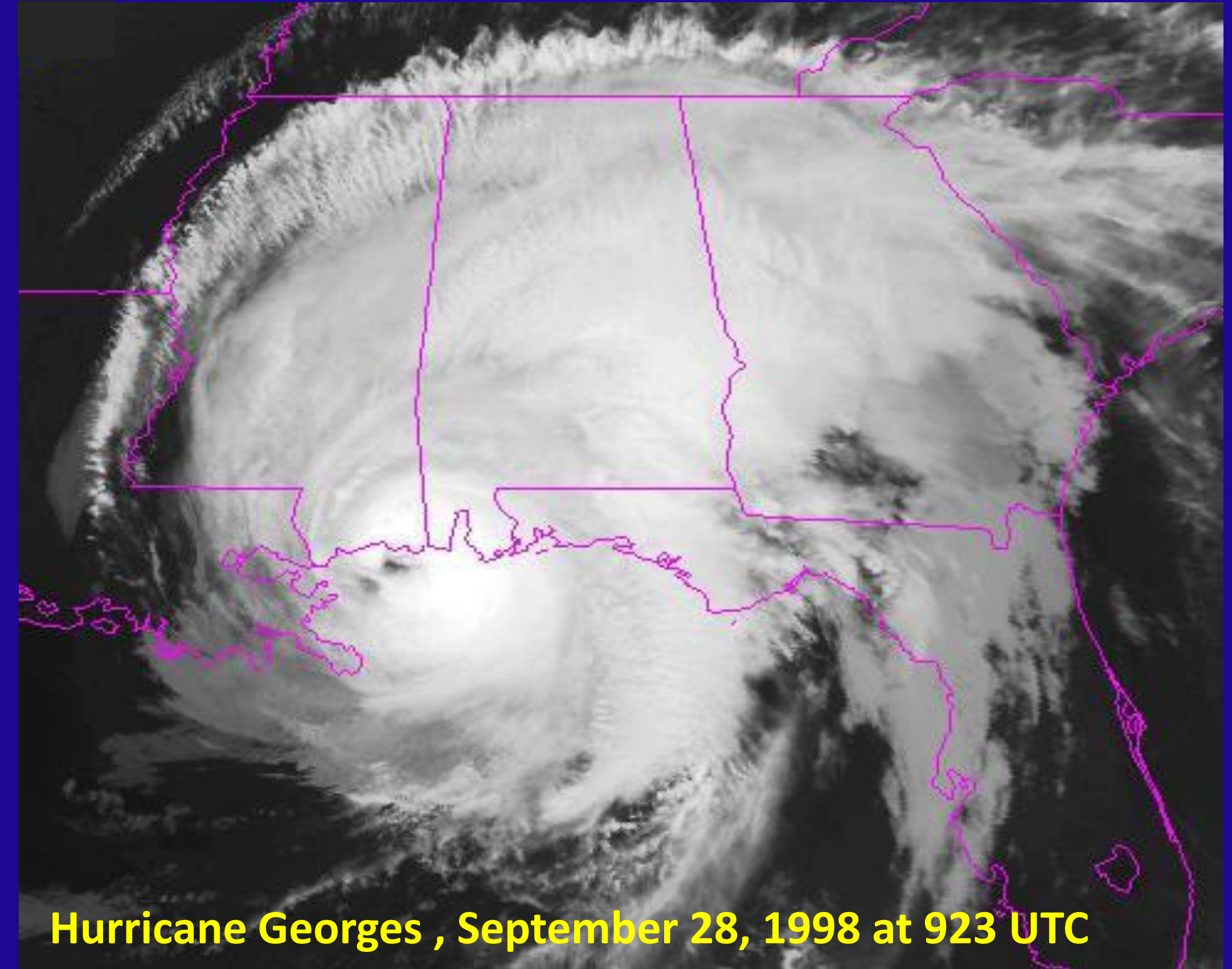




Are You Ready? Safety and Preparedness during Hurricane Season

Land falling tropical systems can affect Central Alabama, even though we do not live on the coast. What are the threats? And are you ready for them?

Inland Flooding. As tropical systems slow down over land, they can produce large amounts of rainfall. The heaviest rainfall is usually found near the eye and to the right of the storm path. Inland flooding is responsible for the greatest number of fatalities over the last 30 years, more than any other threat from tropical systems. Do not underestimate the power of moving water.



Hurricane Georges , September 28, 1998 at 923 UTC



Uprooted tree from Hurricane Katrina, August 2005

Damaging Winds and Squall Lines. Hurricane and tropical storm force winds can push inland with the storm. Squall lines associated with the tropical system can also produce strong sustained wind gusts. These winds could be strong enough to uproot or snap trees, cause damage to buildings, and knock a person down.

Tornadoes. Land falling tropical systems can produce tornadoes. These tornadoes normally form in rain bands to the northeast of the storm center and tend to be weak. However, when combined with the strong winds of a tropical system, destruction can be intensified. These tornadoes can occur at any time, and are typically not accompanied by lightning.

In advance....

- Develop an emergency supply kit, including water, non-perishable food items, batteries, flashlights, cash or credit cards, toiletries, identification, medications, tools, extra clothing and blankets for all family members.
- Replace the batteries in your NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio.
- If you live in a flood prone area, know evacuation routes. Become familiar with poor drainage areas and streams.
- Make plans for your pets. Have identification, a leash, muzzle, food, water, and a carrier ready.

During the event....

- Stay tuned to NOAA All-Hazards Weather Radio, television, radio, or internet for updates on changing weather conditions.
- Stay away from windows and doors. If flooding is not a concern, take shelter on the first floor, in a small interior room, such as a bathroom, closet, or hallway.
- Contact someone outside of the threat area with details about any evacuation plans.
- Do not cross flooded road ways or touch downed power lines.